

# Stream Team Annual Report



*Volunteers from the Columbia Crawdads Team (Stream Team 3517) are wishing everyone in the watershed peace, love, and no more trash during the 10th Annual Hinkson Clean Sweep.*

# 2013

promoting citizen  
awareness and involvement  
in river and stream conservation

## A Summary of Stream Team Activities

It was another great year for the Stream Team Program as volunteers passionately displayed their prowess in 2013. There were 170 new Stream Teams added to the Program bringing the total number of teams to 4,878 of which 3,905 are still active. Those Teams logged more than 151,000 hours of volunteer time valued at over \$3.4 million. This year fewer people hauled in almost the same amount of trash as last year. Stream Teams are becoming more efficient. As Teams are evolving they are doing more planning for events. They are scouting the area for their next litter pickup. They have streamlined their process for completing their water quality monitoring and are in general accomplishing more in less time. Stream Teams accomplish so many wonderful things throughout the year it is hard not to brag. Here's a quick look at some of last year's activity totals:

- ◆ **688 tons of trash** were removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- ◆ **1,015 water quality monitoring trips** were completed.
- ◆ **1,935 storm drains** were stenciled or marked.
- ◆ **49 rain gardens/barrels** or green roofs were installed.

- ◆ **24,556 trees** were planted.
- ◆ Over **\$3.4 million** worth of volunteer labor was dedicated to our streams.
- ◆ Over **369,000 bags** provided by the Stash Your Trash Program were used in litter pickups, by people floating on streams, and during related events.

As the Program inches ever closer to its' silver anniversary it is easy to see it is the volunteers who deserved the recognition. We have over 78,000 Stream Team volunteers statewide and their passion and dedication to Missouri's water resources are truly what keep the waters flowing in the Stream Team Program.



*At the Newburg Children's Museum (Team 4502), you are never too young to learn how to pick bugs!*



Stream Team is sponsored by:  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Conservation Federation of Missouri



# Dedication & Enthusiasm

## Water Quality Monitoring

The Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) portion of the Stream Team Program celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year of educating Missouri citizens. In those 20 years, 8,747 volunteer monitors have learned how streams function while receiving the tools to collect valuable data on our aquatic resources.

The tiered training levels allow volunteers to be as involved as they desire, with education and use of data collected increasing with each level of training.



*A volunteer gets up-close and personal with the critters of Clear Creek at an Introductory Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop in Columbia.*

Since the use of the volunteer data continues to increase, and Level 2 and 3 data are often used to supplement agency collected data, the Program requires our advanced monitors to come in every three years to check their equipment and test their invertebrate identification. The VWQM Validation trainings provide confidence and validity to the data submitted by our advanced volunteers.

In 2013, we held a total of 28 VWQM Workshops, below is a summary of these training sessions and the number of volunteers trained.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	10	232
Level 1	5	76
Level 2	3	18
Level 3	1	1
VWQM Validation	6	24
CSI	3	3
Total	28	354

Cooperative Stream Investigation (CSI) projects continue to provide valuable information to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). CSI volunteers must be at least Level 2 trained and must submit consistent and reliable data. Volunteers are also required to attend training by agency personnel on the protocols for collecting and handling, proper use of the chain of custody, and transportation of environmental samples. Sample analyses are performed by the State Environmental Laboratory or an MDNR approved laboratory.

During 2013 three CSI projects were completed or near completion and one new project was begun. Three projects were in the St. Louis area and one was in the Columbia area. All projects were in support of the impaired waters list [303(d) list] to assist in calculating Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and to assist in preparing implementation plans for load reduction.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring continues to be one of the most important

components of the Stream Team Program. It is a popular activity and provides members with a meaningful way to give life to their efforts by submitting data from many areas that might otherwise not be monitored at all.

## Stream Team Awards

Each year the Stream Team Program recognizes deserving volunteers from each of the three regions of the state, as well as a statewide Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer to receive the Stream Team Ambassador Award. The Ambassador Award recognizes the volunteer's accomplishments in the Program's three primary goals: education, stewardship, and advocacy. Last year there was also an award given for outstanding work on a CSI Special Water Quality Monitoring Project and a Benefactor Award for extraordinary Program support. The 2013 recipients were:

### Stream Team Ambassador Awards

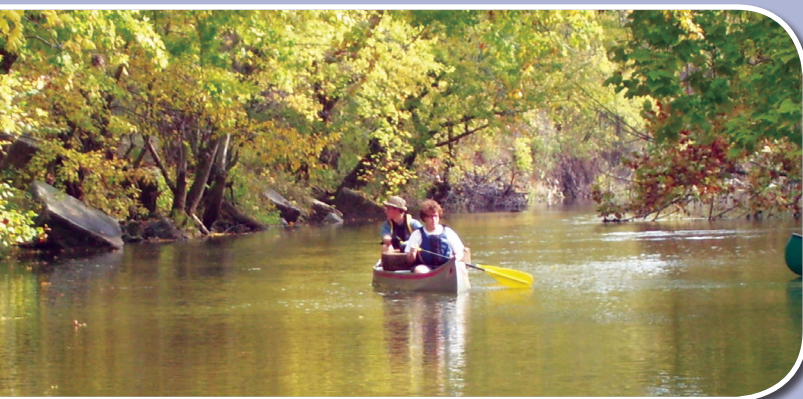
- **Scott Darrough**  
Stream Team 31—Ozark Fly Fishers
- **Jerry & Pam Barnabee**  
Stream Team 3481—Big Piney Tie Rafters
- **Ed & Susan Wrasmann**  
Stream Team 3481—Big Piney Tie Rafters
- **Mona McCormack**  
Stream Team 2800—Smith-Cotton High School
- **Phil Webster**  
Stream Team 3168—Sedalia Slickers

### VWQM Ambassador Awards

- **Mike Engle**  
Stream Team 4220—Team Sadie
- **Claire Schosser**  
Team 3553—Living Green in Watkins Creek Watershed

### Stream Team Benefactor Award

- **Missouri American Water**



*Thanks to Peter Maki of Stream Team 4623 for sharing this beautiful photo of Little Piney River in Phelps County. Missouri: the Great Rivers State!*

## 2013 Fast Facts

During 2013, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **688** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **24,556** trees
- ◆ stenciled **1,935** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **1,015** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **81** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **275** educational events
- ◆ reported **151,923** total volunteer hours

# Respect

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	9	11	9 agreements	\$248.05
Advocacy	85	260	60 events	\$5,863.00
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	20	25	25 articles	\$563.75
Association Activities	255	2,506	151 events	\$56,510.30
Award Winners	18	22	8 awards	\$496.10
Display at Fairs, etc.	257	1,163	52 events	\$26,225.65
Educational Projects	2,490	9,813	275 events	\$221,283.15
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	2	8	1 trip	\$180.40
Greenway Projects	50	300	1 project	\$6,765.00
Grant Projects	7	22	6 projects	\$496.10
Habitat Improvement	799	3,948	62 projects	\$89,027.40
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	9	14	9 letters	\$315.70
Litter Pickups	20,692	102,553	688 tons of trash	\$2,312,570.15
Media Contacts	21	19	24 interviews	\$428.45
Meetings (held or attended)	1,263	3,513	1,259 attendees	\$79,218.15
Mentoring	26	57	9 projects	\$1,285.35
Monofilament Recycling Project	11	30	22 ounces	\$676.50
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	307	2,436	100 projects	\$54,931.80
Planted Trees	888	4,780	24,556 trees	\$107,789.00
Pre-activity Planning	483	1,745	198 projects	\$39,349.75
Photo Point Monitoring	18	24	152 photos	\$541.20
Presentations to Other Groups	451	1,571	81 presentations	\$35,426.05
Rain Garden/Barrel or Green Roof	134	419	49 projects	\$9,448.45
Recruitment (new members)	119	233	204 people	\$5,254.15
River Observation (possible pollution event)	8	53	3 projects	\$1,195.15
Stream Access Maintenance	29	122	27 projects	\$2,751.10
Storm Drain Stenciling	90	310	1,935 drains	\$6,990.50
Streambank Stabilization Projects	10	34	2 projects	\$766.70
Watershed Mapping	15	75	1 trip	\$1,691.25
Workshops (attended or conducted)	450	3,752	413 attendees	\$84,607.60
Water Quality Monitoring	8,454	12,085	1,015 trips	\$272,516.75
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	18	20	11 trips	\$451.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37,488</b>	<b>151,923</b>		<b>\$3,425,863.65</b>

\*\$22.55/hour is the current national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

\*\*Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fund-raising, etc.



*Stream Team license plates are on the street!  
Mary Scott (Team 372) is proud to tell the world she's a "Fish Lady!"*

## Stash Your Trash

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing trash bags to Missouri's Float Outfitters. In 2013, 149 float outfitters throughout the state participated in the Stash Your Trash Program, 101 of which offered discounts to Stream Teams in the Stream Team Float Outfitters Discount Directory. Over 369,000 red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the public, preventing countless tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. Over 15,000 red mesh, 13,000 green mesh bags and 3,000 of the blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams in their cleanup efforts. To date over 5,021,000 bags have been provided to outfitters!

**Over  
\$3.4  
million!**

## 24-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ♣ collected **10,285** tons of trash
- ♣ planted **284,363** trees
- ♣ stenciled **16,028** storm drains
- ♣ conducted **25,691** water monitoring trips
- ♣ given **2,901** presentations to other groups
- ♣ completed **4,436** educational events
- ♣ reported **2,327,142** total volunteer hours



*Environmental Science students from Smith-Cotton High School (Team2800) show off their haul from Pearl River in Sedalia.*



# Accomplishment

## What's To Come . . .

2014 marks a major milestone in this successful Program as we celebrate our silver anniversary. Program staff have been hard at work in making it a memorable year with the 25 Days of Stream Team passport system as well as planning a celebratory float trip on the Current River. The efforts of our volunteers continued to grow and evolve and staff strive to answer the question,

what can we do to help our volunteers care for their rivers and streams?

As we look to the future, there is no doubt that Stream Teams will continue to find new ways to care for Missouri's water resources, even if they have to get a little muddy along the way. Thank you to everyone for their continued hard work and as always we hope to see you on the river!



◆ Education ◆ Stewardship ◆ Advocacy ◆

## Stream Team Staff



From left: Sherry Fischer (MDC), Alicia Burke (MDC), Randy Sarver (DNR), Amy Meier (MDC), Chris Riggert (MDC), Kat Lackman (MDC), Mark Van Patten (MDC), Susan Higgins (DNR), April Perry (MDC), Karen Westin (DNR).

### Questions? Please contact us at:

1-800-781-1989 (voice mail)  
streamteam@mdc.mo.gov  
streamteam@dnr.mo.gov  
www.mostreamteam.org  
www.facebook.com/mostreamteams



Several Stream Teams joined together in Rolla to install 1,500 Storm Drain Markers, to spread the message "No Dumping—Drains to Stream."



The Chaplin family helped the City of Hannibal (Team 4705) clean Bear Creek.



Volunteers learned about stream dynamics during a stream table demonstration at the Understanding Streams Workshop in Sedalia.



The Wells Fargo Wagon-noes (Team 4663) worked hard cleaning tires and trash from the Big River in Washington State Park.





# MSTWC

## MISSOURI STREAM TEAM WATERSHED COALITION

# Annual Report 2013

## A Summary of MSTWC Activities

The Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition (MSTWC) is a not-for-profit organization made up of representatives from Stream Team Associations throughout the state. Associations are groups of Stream Teams who work together within watersheds. MSTWC promotes and supports watershed-based Stream Team Associations and the Stream Team Program by serving as a resource for information, education, stewardship, and advocacy; facilitating communication among Associations; and serving as a voice for healthy watersheds in Missouri. There are currently 16 Stream Team Associations across the state.



MSTWC works to further the efforts of the Stream Team Program and Stream Team Associations by focusing on the following goals. Check out some of the ripples we made as we flowed through 2013.

## Education and Outreach

**MSTWC provides educational tools and resources to the Stream Team Program, Stream Team Associations, and Stream Team members.**

- Continued to support an electronic e-mail system, with a distribution of almost 6,000 contacts, which can be utilized by Stream Team Program staff and MSTWC, allowing Stream Team members to receive Program and issue information via e-mail.
- Awarded \$10,000 in Pat Jones scholarships to Stream Team members to attend the national "River Rally" conference hosted in St. Louis.



- ◆ With partner Ozarks Water Watch, we developed the Missouri Clean Marina program funded in part by the Department of Natural Resources. Twelve marinas were enrolled in the program in 2013. Learn more at [www.mocleanmarina.org](http://www.mocleanmarina.org).
- ◆ Utilized not-for-profit status to act as sponsoring entity for a \$10,000 Missouri Department of Natural Resources 319 grant provided by MODNR for the Mill Creek Watershed Coalition's education/outreach program for the Mill Creek Watershed.



## Technical

**MSTWC acts as a technical resource for Stream Team members and the Stream Team Program.**

- ◆ Continued to disseminate the recently published “State of Missouri Streams” reports.
- ◆ Served as technical stakeholder on issues related to water resource management and protection.

## Sustainable Funding

**MSTWC is working to establish sustainable funding to support the operational expenses of the organization. We are hopeful that a sustainable funding revenue stream will also improve our ability to support Stream Team Associations and the Stream Team Program.**

- ◆ Managed the Stream Team license plate program. For each plate purchased and renewed, a donation goes to MSTWC. Currently there are over 200 license plates on the road.
- ◆ Through the Chuck and Sharon Tryon Revolving Tire Fund and the Bridgestone Tires 4ward Program, we assisted Stream Teams in properly disposing of 3,866 tires in 2013.



## Advocacy

**MSTWC acts as an advocate on issues that affect the quality of our state's water resources. MSTWC works to provide information to Stream Team members; provide comments to agencies, legislators, and other governmental officials on specific issues; and encourages Stream Team members to voice their concerns on water-related projects.**

- ◆ Encouraged advocacy in the Stream Team community through electronically disseminated “Issue Alerts.” These issue alerts reach approximately 6,000 individuals who have shown an interest in Missouri waterways.
- ◆ Represented water resources in stakeholder engagement processes.
- ◆ Hosted the MSTWC Facebook page which educates followers about water resource issues through current event posts.

***To learn more about MSTWC, please visit [www.mstwc.org](http://www.mstwc.org).***